NOTES FROM LONDON.

A RECEPTION-A MEET IN THE HYDE PARK -PERSONALITIES.

The official reception at the Foreign Office on the evening of the Queen's Birthday has ng been considered the most beautiful of the large parties given in London. When the building was erected, a suite of rooms was designed for the purposes of such a festival as this. There are fine approaches through Downingst. and beneath the archway and through the great court. The entrance hall is spacious; the grand staircase one of the grandest in Europe, and always decorated with masses of flowers. The galleries surrounding it give a perfect view of the ascending and descending processions of guests. In the succession of gayly painted and gilded saloons which melose the four sides of the quadrangle, there is room for 2,000 persons or, perhaps, with much crowding, 3,000. Royalties are always present: generally a good many of them. Republican notions of equality may suffer violence by the social homage paid to princes, but it must be conceded that the state which surrounds them, adds much to the splendor of a great entertainment. On Saturday Wales had been dining with the Prime Minister in Downing-st., just opposite. The Princess picked him up about 11, and the two arrived together. Their approach is announced, Lord and Lady Granville, who have been welcoming ordinary guests on the first landing of the staircase, descend to the lowest step to receive the Prince and Princess. The band plays "God Save the Queen." The guests, clustering in the hall, on the taircase, in the galleries above, and in the drawing-rooms, range themselves in a long avenue through which the Royalties pass. The men bow low; the women courtesy; salutations which Prince and Princesses alike return with a general distribution of smiles and inclinations of the head. The Prince is in full uniform-Field Marshal's uniform, as I guess, with the Garter over his shoulder. The Princess is all silk and lace and diamonds. Of the guests, the men who have been at any of the numerous official dinners given the same evening. are in uniform of some kind, or in levée dress. The women are gorgeous; diamonds enough to ransom half a dozen kings gleaming on the stately pillars of fair, white throats and white necks and shoulders. Lady Granville wears a tiara which I am told is a most wonderful product of Brazilian mines and the jeweller's cunning. There are, to say the least, some hundreds of women in these rooms whose jewels are each in their kind costly and splendid. If you have heard that English women dress badly you may well wonder who all these divinelyclothed creatures are. I will not swear that their dressmakers are English, but the wearers of the gowns are, in the proportion of nineteen out of twenty, as you may see by their pure skins and shapely figures not less plainly than by the English stamp on their features. I dare say the good American would declare they had an English accent also. It is a mixed assemblage, no doubt. Political reasons have something to do with the making up of Lady Granville's list, and many reasons beside those of a purely social kind. I heard one Englishman, presumably himself composed of the most superfine porcelain, declare audibly in the middle of a large room that he never before saw such a 'beastly crowd." If it contained many men as vulgar as the author of that speech, it certainly deserved the epithet. This specimen of ill-breeding on the part of a chance guest might better be ed over in silence, but it expresses in a coarse way the secret, unuttered scorn of the more select and elegant society of London for these great crushes. The more select and elegant are none the less here in force, and the best of them may take note of the perfect good-breeding and thoughtful courtesy with which their host and hostess receive their guests of every degree. No use in giving you names-the better known of them fill two columns of small print in the accredited organ of the fashionable world. It is long past 2 of Sunday morning before the last of them have got their car-

This is a summer of prodigies. The Derby Day was the greatest Derby known; in respect of the humanity present if not of horseflesb. The Foreign Office reception was never before so numerously or brilliantly attended. And now on Wednesday came the meet of the Four-in-Hand Club in Hyde Park, which the oldest stager declares drew a er crowd than any previous meet. The world is in London, cried an enthusiastic Cockney. On the other hand I heard a well-known personage remark only vesterday that London, between the Derby and Ascot, is intolerable. The true Londoner is elbowed out of the way by his provincial and continental brother; with some help from his kin beyond the Atlantic sea. The weather has something to do with it this year. Never has London been seen to better advantage. Hyde Park on Wednesday was in perfection. The sun has shone unceasingly for a formight, and the umbrellamakers are all going bankrupt. Even the Tories admit that Mr Gladstone's malevolent influence has not touched the foliage of the trees or the turf. or hindered the rhododendrons from coming into blossom. The Serpentine is as blue as an Italian lake, and for the multitude who gathered at the Magazine on Wednesday, the coloring of the whole stretch of park was thrown up by a background of bronze cloud in the east and south, where the smoke of the great factories down the river hung in the sky. From Hyde Park corner to the Magazine a triple or quadruple row of carriages was drawn up; and what space they left was tilled by cavaliers. men and women, whom the police had marshalled into regiments facing each other firmly from the opposite sides of the drive. Scores of thousands of pedestrians filled the walks and spread over the fields. Wheresthe roads part, just below the Magagine and above the water, the twenty-eight four-inhands were strung out in lines four deep, waiting for the start. The Prince of Wales was on the box of Lord Castlereugh's coach, his two boys following with Lord Charles Beresford. The Princess of Wales gazed on the show from her victoria. When the coaches had driven off and the crowd broke up, the avenues of the park from the bridge to the corner were one stream of well-dressed men and women. Either avenue of Rotten Row was as good as impassable; and all this in a heat and white blaze of light which, for London, might be called oppressive, were it not tempered by a breeze which fails not to blow freshly from the northwest.

There happened the other night a division in the House of Commons wherein, for once, the Conservative guerillas abandoned their Irish allies, and the latter went into the lobby almost alone. In each lobby is a spot whence it is possible to observe what goes on at the entrance to the opposite camp, and two Englishmen stood there looking on. Said one to the other: "Is there anybody but Irish voting syet" Answered his fellow-Saxon: "Yes, I can see three white men going in." This true story I respectfully offer to Mr. E. L. Godkin as the only picce of evidence lately known to me which may bear out his fantastic theory that Englishmen hate Irish. Nor is it exactly hate which the sentence I have quoted expresses.

The Irish feeling has found its latest conspicuous exponent in Mr. O'Kelly. It is impossible to take Mr. O'Kelly seriously, or to give his encounter with Mr. McCoan a place among serious subjects. Mr. O'Kelly at the best, or worst, of times bears but a faint likeness to a conspirator or to a bitter patriot and round body are not the result of midnight neils or gunpowder plots. The House, I must say, is always rather disposed to laugh at the mem-ber for Roscommon. That he should challenge Mr. McCoan, and that Mr. McCoan should deem it neceseary to appeal to the House for protection, did not of period gravity at the most critical moments, disfired the general question of privilege without at ch reference to Mr. O'Kelly's personality. But etch hir. Gladstone could not refrain from hinting ti the humor of the honorable member's lofty Liberal friend undertake to say that the Foreign sectaration of disregard for the opinion of the Office party on the Queen's Birthday was less cath-

House. The question, he said, whether Mr. O'Kelly cared little or cared much for the opinion of the House of Commons, was not, perhaps, one upon which its character and dignity would in the main ultimately depend. The House laughed. Mr. O'Kelly tried his best to look the contempt he felt, with no great success. He did manage to be, so far as language went, abrupt and contumelious, and to avoid the expressions of civility which the gentlemen of this assembly are wont to use when dealing with the House as a body. But the main point was that Mr. O'Kelly should expressly forego his menace of murder to Mr. McCoan. And this he did. It may soothe his unsatisfied spirit of revenge to reflect that he was the instrument of wasting part of two nights, and of still further detracting, in so far as an individual member may, from the dignity of the assembly he affects to despise.

It is announced with more or less authority that Lord Dufferin is to receive some special mark of honor on account of his services in Egypt and at Constantinople. Forthwith the extreme radical begins a series of sniffs and captions protests. The extreme radical was opposed to the Egyptian war, retains a lingering affection for Arabi, and does not like to see more honors offered to those concerned in establishing order in the country of the fellah. He is opposed, also, to any more giving of titles, or ribbons, or stars to anybody. The English Ambassador to Turkey is already Earl of Dufferin; what good will it do him to be made a Marquis ? He is already Knight of St. Patrick, Knight Commander of the Bath, Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George and a Privy Councillor. If you wish, in addressing him, to indicate all his dignities (which nobody ever does), you would have to call him the Right Honorable the Earl of Dufferin, K. P., K. C. B., G. C. M. G., P. C. The radical thinks that, with all these, Lord Dufferin has his full share of the alphabet, and perhaps he has. Is he to be K. G., a Knight of the Garter as well? They say not. Lord Harrowby's death left a garter vacant, which is, I believe, still vacant, but is said to be reserved for another. Perhaps you will know all about it before this letter can reach you. Meantime, all I can say is that Lord Dufferin is thought here to have de served any reward the Government have at their disposal, and that to pass him over entirely would be regarded as a slight to a brilliant and successful diplomatis'. Ribbons and titles may be the most valueless things in the world, intrinsically, but Europe in general has not yet been educated up to the point of regarding them in that light. They are no more out of fashion here than the honorable disunctions of Judge and Colonel are in certain States of the great Republic.

General Foster stayed over in London one day in order to attend the Home Dinner at the Devonshire Club, over which Mr. Chamberlain presided. The seal of secrecy lies on all that is said and done on such occasions, but I hope there is no barm in re-peating what has already been stated in the London papers, that General Foster was among the speakers. I will venture to add that he was extremely well received-the reference by two speakers to his country being warmly cheered-and that his brief and pointed and very diplomatic speech made the best impression on his audience.

SOCIAL POLITICS,

OR THE SCIENCE OF GIVING POLITICAL PARTIES. FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

London, June 4.

The article most talked about among those contributed to the June magazines is that on "The Social Discipline of the Liberal Party" in The Fortnightly. It has given great offence, especially to those in whose interest it purports to have been written: to the Liberals of the outer social fold-It deals with the burning question of Liberal and Conservative clubs, and with the not less burning question of Liberal and Conservative receptions, using the word in the social sense ;-drums is the term more in vogue here. What the author of this article, who signs himself " A Liberal," has to say, is that the Conservatives beat the Liberals on both points. The Carl on, he declares, is a better clubthat is, politically more useful-than the Reform or the Devenshire or Brooks's. I said so much about clubs the other day with reference to the new National Liberal Club that I will not pursue that branch of the complaint. It is, however, worth noting that he describes the Carlton as possessing a valuable distinction from any or all of the three Liberal clubs named in that it "combines the social cachet of exclusiveness with the fact of catholicity;" which reads very like a contradiction in terms has none the less some justification in fact,

The more purely social discussion is conducted in this article with a freedom of speech and a recklessness in the use of names surprising indeed in a strictly respectable review like The Fortnightly. Tories, we are told, are more advanced in matters of polite diplomacy than Libera's. "Social exclusiveness is the note, not of the Conservative, or even Tory, nobility, but of the Whig or Liberal," The result is that the new rich men find their way into the Conservative camp, where they are welcomed, and not into the Liberal, where, presumably, they would not be. The great Whig ladies look askance upon the wife and daughter of the successful stockbroker or sheep-farmer, whom the Conservative Duchess takes to her arms, or, at least, note her drawing-room. And the women in such matters are more potent than the men-in other words-a man will be led by his wife and daughters into that political fold where they find the readiest appear ance of cordiality. Whigs have never fused with the new Liberals; the Tories freely did with the new Conservatives, and these latter "have with equal wisdom and boldness accepted the fact that the foundation of society in the present day is plu tocratic and not aristocratic"-a remark which I take leave to say is pure nonsense. The foundation of sociely is, in fact, just as aristocratic as ever. A considerable plutocratic element has been admitted inside the mansion it is true, but it is tolerated, not welcomed, save in cases where the new-comer has something beside wealth to recommend him. The new wealth has done its best to give the note to the old society, and has almost totally failed. It builds pretentions houses in the most expensive quarters and the born aristocrat who delights to veil the interior splendors of his home by a diugy, plain wall, pronounces them vulgar It gives parties on which money is lavished in every form and ometimes with really beautiful results, only to hear them sneered at as "overdone." Its equipages are gorgeous, but the patrician clings to his simple elegance of style. And so on. The subject deserves a chapter or perhaps a votume from the student of social life, but it is only incidental to the question of the distinctions between Liberals and Conservative.

It is, however, the keystone of the theory of which this singular paper has been built, and the writer of it uses his plutocratic fallacy as a lest of the comparative social efficiency of two ladies of great position, one Liberal, one Conservative-Lady Granville and Lady Salisbury. The Liberals, he declares, have culpably failed to accept his plutocratic basis, and by way of illustration he proceeds to compare the lists of guests at one of Lady Salisbury's and one of Lady Granville's parties. The comparison is impertinent, and is also incomplete. In Lady Salisbury's, he tells us, "there is not a single section, social or political, of the Conservative party unrepresented; tradesmen and manufacturers whose names were strange to their hosts year ago, and are probably not familiar to them now, mingle with landed genery and nobles of of the kind for which, perhaps, Mr. O'Brien might | ancient descent." Of what sorts of people Lady be most fitly photographed. This fresh complexion | Granville's list is composed this "Liberal," who is so familiar with Lady Salisbury's, omits to explain; which, considering that he is a Laberal, is odd. If he knows anything at all about the matter, he must be aware that Minister's wives, and ladies who, for whatever reason, give political parties, have two lists. There is, first, in each case, the cat-In the least after the easy view habitually taken of alogue of her own friends, whom even this Liberal this irate warrior. Mr. Gladstone, who is capable | I suppose would permit her to invite when she saw fit. There is, secondly, what is known as the Whip's List, which is meant to include everybody whom for political reasons it is expedient, and for personal reasons not impossible, to invite. Will our Liberal friend undertake to say that the Foreign

olic than any of Lady Salisbury's political gatherings? It was not, to be sure, confined to one side, but how many drums are? If the Liberal who thinks himself entitled to an invitation gets it, he will hardly object that others are as fortunate as

may be said that no Whig or Liberal Administration has been better served, if service it be, in the matter of social entertainments than the present. Devonshire House was open for great crushes four times a year, till the death of Lord Frederick Cavendish drove his father into a retirement which the most eager Liberal cannot but respect. At Spencer House the parties were more numerous and equally comprehensive, so long as Lord Spencer remained in England. One great party was given at Lansdowne House last year, and one small dance to meet the Prince and Princess of Wales; the latter, but not the former, being repeated this summer. Lady Breadalbane opened Harcourt House to the Liberal party with great freedom, Lady Aberdeen and Lady Hayter have done the same with their mansions in Grosvenor Square. Mrs. Gladstone's parties in Downing-st. have perhaps been as frequent as circumstances would permit, and as cleverly managed in the matter of invitations as could be expected. Lady Brand's receptions have in no respect fallen off from those which the Speaker's wife always gives, though it is but incidentally that they could be supposed to benefit Liberal more than Conservative aspirations. Still, Sir Henry Brand is a Liberal. Other official assemblies have been held according to custom; the portals of the Admiralty and the War Office yawning occasion demanded, while Lady Harcourt's house in Grafton-st, has become known as a social headquarters of the Liberal faith. I dare say I omit some of equal brilliancy and usefulness. And what is there on the Tory side? It would be difficult to name any houses which are distinctively Conservative in the character of their hospitalities, except Lady Stanhope's and Lady Salisbury's, and perhaps Mrs. W. H. Smith's, Whether such efforts as are made by the wives of Whig and Tory magnates are really beneficial to their party is matter of opinion. There is something to be said on both sides. But assuming that they are, I think it is pretty clear that the Liberals are at least as well served by their female allies as the Conservatives. I have mentioned names simply because these are really functions of a quasipublic character, regularly announced and regu larly reported in the daily papers of London.

Not the least curious part of this curious article is the remark about Ascot and Lord Cork's distribution of tickets to the royal inclosure. Here the writer has undoubtedly scored a point. It is part, and perhaps the most delicate and important part, of Lord Cork's functions as Master of the Buckhounds, to choose the company who shall be permitted to stroll about this sacred bit of turf during the race-week. There is great eagerness to enjoy this privilege, and it is perhaps an evidence of that talent which Lord Cork is supposed not to possess that he has contrived to give more offence in exercising his discretion than any of his predecessors. Says our Liberal:

Says our Liberal:

It is one of those opportunities which the politician who is responsible for the Queeu's buckhounds has of rendering social service to his party. Under Conservative administrations these greatry desired cards were dispensed with signal judgment. They were distributed, as it was right they should be, or social and political grounds, and though there were necessarily many refusals, with much consequent mortification, there was no reasonable dissatisfaction. In a word, the system was sound, and the company in the inclo-ure was not culled from any social or political coterie. The buckhounds are now in the keeping of a Whig nobleman, and the principle on which admissions to the inclosure have on more than one occasion been allotted, has excited much criticism and soit a little intelligible complaint. The representatives of what is, or complaint. The representatives of what is, or ought to be, one of the strongest, as it is one of the most indispansable, of Liberal interests, are of opinion that they have been very generally excluded. If this be so, it is at least impolitic, and an analogous error was seldom committed by Conser-

All this may be more briefly and plainly put in a sentence. Lord Cork is of opinion that to be good enough for the Ascot inclosure you must be on Lady Cork's visiting-list. His friends feebly apologize for his eccentric view of this duty by the plea that it is, after all, Lady Cork who determines who shall and who shall not have tickets. That only amounts to saying that Lord Cork is not fit for the post he holds. His critics have been known to go so far as to hint that a display of common politeness would lessen the animosities he excites. If, for example, he felt unable to grant a request, he might refuse it civilly. But to leave letters unanor to take no notice of an application in behalf of a lady who is daughter of one of the highest dignitaries of the kingdom-such incivilities as these must puzzle Lord Cork's pest friends to explain

The Ascot week makes a desert of London. Few are the "smart" people who do not in one way or another go to the races. The Prince and Princess of Wales are at Coworth Park for the week. All about Ascot, anywhere within five or six miles, or even further, houses are let for the week at prices much higher in some cases than a year's rental in a less incky locality. All the private places, all the pretty country houses whose owners care for racing or do not care to let them, are crowded with parties of triends. A great number of people go down from London daily, or, at least, on Tuesday and Thursday, which are the two most brilliant days of the four. You may see the effect of this exodus in any part of the West End. Piccadilly and Bondst, are as easy to drive through as Marylebone road. I crossed the Park this morning, and at I o'clock, which is the most crowded hour. Rotten Row could not number two score of cavaliers. At the same hour last week there must have been a thousand men and women on horseback, and the avenues on each side, especially the south side, empty this morning, were thronged with pedeatrians. Hardly a party is given this week, and, I think, not a single ball. The one entertainment of much consequence is Lady Salisbury's, and that is an assembly composed, as we were told above, with reference to Parliamentary effect. G. W. s.

SHOULD DANCING GIVE OFFENCE?

DIFFERENCE IN THE VIEWS OF LUTHERAN CLER-GYMEN-OFFICIAL ACTION OF THE MINISTE-

"Luther was a lover of music and dancing," said a Lutheran clergyman to a reporter of THE TRIBUNE, "and in that respect he was a typical German." The remark was elicited by an inquiry regarding so-called "Lutheran raid against dancing," which was begun jast week by the Rev. Leo Koenig, at the Lutheran Ministerium. Mr. Koenig said that he had ecome persuaded that dancing at Sunday-school picnics was her productive of the deepest plety, and he has set his face as a flint against the supposed evil. After his ohurch service ne delivered a supplemental discourse in his parlor, the reporter and a triend comprising the audience. Mr. Keentg is paster St. Paul's Church, at Sixth ave. and Fifteenth-st., and has only been in the city a few years. He became very earnest as he proceeded to untold some of the terrible consequences attending the dance. Euvy, jealousy, consumption and death-these, he said, were the natural results when the question of morality was not involved.
"May not Christians dance !" asked the reporter.

"The nineteenth century dance was not known in Bible times, and so when the time did not mean a mix-d dance, as you see new, but the women danced by themselves. Imagine such a dance

" What was the resolution which you introduced in the

Ministerium I" "It was this: As some congregations in our New-York Ministerium celebrate Sunday-school picnics, with dancing to the offence of many souls, we ask and exhort our congregations to abolish such offences as soon as possible."

exhort our congregations to abolish such offences as soon as possible."

"Have you held your picule this summer?"

"It will occur on Wednessiay at Elin Park. There will be singing, praying and playing games and—"

"Any drinking i"

"Only milk and tea."

"A German picule without lager?"

"I presume there will be some of that beverage drunk, but not with my sanction. You see this dancing and drinking are biglian customs, and our people tolink they must follow the example set by their neighors."

"Drinking and dancing are old German customs which autedate father," said the Rev. J. B. Reimenschneider, of st. James' Church, in East Fifecath-et., a few minutes inter; "and we Lutterale believe in being temperate in all takes."

Many of my people are English; in fact it is practically an English church. We believe that Christians should enjoy with moderation whatever good things the Lord has provided. My people dance, but I have never seen any of the attendant evils complained of by the Ministerium. The churches belonging to that body are a little more conservative than those belonging to the tieneral Synod, of which my church is a member."

ber."

A member of St. John's Church, in Christopherst., said that nearly every person in the church danced and drank beer, but there were no drunkards among them. "Come to our Sunday-school plenie next Monday," she added, "at Schnetzen Park, and you will see old women and old men and their children dancing and drinking beer. but no harm comes from it. The young people will remain until midnight, while the children will come home at 6 o'clock."

THE NEW OPERA HOUSE SCENERY.

A TALK WITH THE SCENE PAINTER.

LAYING OUT THE WORK ON AN EXTENSIVE SCALE. Charles Fox, the scene painter, was hard at work yesterday in the paint-loft of the Grand Opera House making models of scenery for the new Opera When a TRIBUNE reporter entered the room Mr. Fox was deep in thought over some changes which he proposed to make in setting the second act of "Faust." In front of him stood a large model of the stage of the Opera House complete in every detail, with painted scenes and figures.

"This summer," said Mr. Fox, lighting the tobacco in a handsome meerschaum pipe, "Is a busy one for the scene painters. It's their paradise. The trouble is, we

can't get enough of them."
"Is it the new Opera House that keeps them all busy !', "Yes," was the repy, "that is it, exactly. I'm making now all the designs and models, and the painters are at work on the scenery, as you probably saw in coming up to this room. Look at the size of this scenery ; there's nothing like it. It's the biggest in the Kingdo pardon -I mean the Republic." For the moment the artist had forgotten that he was not in his own country.

"These scenes," he continued, measuring his model and making the necessary calculations, "are 72x45 feet on the average. Some of them are even larger. Why the Academy of Music has seenes 47x33 feet, and they seem large. The wings will vary from 26 to 30 feet in height, and will be 10 to 16 feet in width. Every scene will be as it should be according to the story. Many o scenes usually employed are totally incorrect.

" Now, here's a great change that I'm making in the setting of 'Trovatore,'" said Mr. Fox, as he pulled some strings in the model and set the scenery of that opera. "Instead of the rocky pass which is always rep escuted and incorrectly, too, I'm setting it as the ruins of an abbey, according to the story. This is the scene you remember, where the Anvil Chorus comes in, and the ballet is introduced. After this scene the exterior of a convent follows. Ordinarily that is set with dark woods and a church appears on one side. I'm making it a conrent on one side and the little chapel attached to the convent. The whole convent and chapel come on from the side of the stage at the signal to change the scene. and the transformation occurs in sight of the audiencethe chapel coming on, facing about and falling into its proper place. It's all a night scene. On the right

"What other changes are you making in setting the

out a set of scenes for another opera, " I'm making sev eral. Take this scene in ' Faust, where Faust is changed to a young man. You never see any change of scenery when that occurs. But I'm going to change the scene in keeping with Faust's changed condition. From a chemist's shop he will be taken into a handsomely furnished "And then there's the first act in 'Lahengrin.' You

"And then there's the first act in 'Lshengrin.' You remember when the boat comes along through those miscrable straight lines, and part of it concealed in the water i Well. I'm making it so that the boat will come in on the surface of the water, will be seen entire, and will come up to the landing-place by a circuitous path, travelling through a graceful curve. The water will be transparent, and the reflection of the boat in the water will be plainly seen by the andience. The rear scene will show a view of Antwerp, and this is it," said Mr. Fox, pointing to a remarkably well executed picture of that city. city.

This scene." he continued, "will be simply grand."

This scene." he continued, "will be simply grand."

"This scene," he continued, "will be simply grand. There has never been such scenery any where. The great trouble with the Academy of Music is that when the wings are set the people in the boxes can't see the middle of the stage. But it is in this respect that the new Opera House will excel it. The stage is very large, and everything will be done in grand stye. Of course there are some operas which do not require such an extent of stage. Take, for example, 'Lucla,' and 'Traviata' and 'Sonnambuia;' there are little scenes in them that require a small stage. In those cases we shall make the stage amaler."

stage smaller."
Do you think there will be any changes made in the

*Bo you think there will be any changes made in the Academy of Music !"

"No. I do not. If they intended to make any changes there, I'm quite sure they would let me know. Prior to his departure, I made for Mr. Mapieson, at his request, a small model of the stage, showing the changes he wished to be made. This model was exhibited to the directors, but I've not heard anything about it since, so I conclude that they will make no changes in the stage at least. Mapleson's idea wasto enlarge the stage at least. Mapleson's idea wasto enlarge the stage at rect on each side and do with it what has been done with the new Opera House stage. Some of those spiendid scenes which he brought from Italy had to be cut in order to put them on the stage at the Academy. I've spent sleeples nights in trying to find out how I could cut them without spoiling the subject; for it's no easy task to cut down a big arcantectural scene.

"Let me tell you it's a good deal of a thing to manage an Italian opera company. For the life of me, I don't see how they pay. I've been with them for years, and I'm blessed if I can see how an impresario can make any money. Now, the idea of paying \$5,000 a might for a prima dotha. Thins of 1! And when such a price as prima dotha.

oney. Now, the dead of paying \$5,000 a night for orima doing. Think of it! And wien such a price a that is paid it has got to be made up out of something dec. Other expenses have got to be cut down greatly."

"Do you think the Opera House will be opened in October, as amounced?"

ber, as announced !"
'Oh, without a doubt. It's got to be done. We've got tough work here for the summer. As quick as the place is in condition we're going to begin to paint scenes ere. We shall set all the painters to work we can get."

house is in condition we're going to begin to paint scenes there. We shall set all the painters to work we car get."

"I can't tell until Mr. Abbey informs me how many operas he is going to present. I expect to hear from him on that subject very soon."

"iou might say," shi Mr. Fyx as the reporter started to go, "that the special feature of the new house is this; tout all the wings will be set in front of the borders, and if we show a house or anything of that kind, the gabic roof or the chimney will not be cut off by the files. The whole building will be seen, no matter how high it is. Messrs. Shafter and Weston are painting the palace scene in the Grand Opera House now. As soon as Haveriy's Threatre is closed for the season some of the scenes will be painted there, in the paint-loft."

THE WEEHAWKEN TUNNEL.

A DIFFICULT PIECE OF ENGINEERING SUCCESS FULLY ACCOMPLISHED.

Black on the gray and russet face of the Palisades, across the Hudson River from West Thirty seventiest, shows the opening of the Weelin w ken tunnel, built for the New York, Outario and Western Railroad Company, and one costlest and most difficult pieces of railroad engine rang accomplished in this part of the country in recent years. This tunnel, which was begun in March 1881, is theisned and ready for use with the exception of a part of the bailasting and track-laying within the tunnel Construction trains are now running through and it is expected that in about hree weeks milk trains will make egular trips. Its length, from the eastern face to New Durann, is 4,000 leet. Its extreme beignt, at the centr is 21 sect, and its ordinary height, to the spring line, 11 feet 6 inches, with a rise of 9 feet in the arch, which is a em edipse. Its width is 27 teet throughout. At the east end, on account of the curves running north and south to the terminal yard, it was neces ary to widen the tunnel to a trumpet snape, thus making the portal 53 feet wide, and 40 feet high from grade to roof. The grade rises from each portal to a point about 1,000 feet irom the west end, where the summit is reacued. The elevation of the grade at this point is ten feet above the east end and five feet above the west end. grades are made easy for purposes of drainage. The many unlooked-for difficulties to be overcome have run up the cost to \$1,000,000 in round numbers, up to the present date. This includes the work on the approaches

and settlements for right of way.

The west-end cut is 2.600 feet long. Here the engineer encountered a large bed of quicksand, 500 feet long, watch was overcome by making a ditch on the north side of the cut, from which the water was drained, so that the sand could be excavated and carted off. This operation had to be repeated many times. Five shafts wer sunk, each 16 e t feet wide and 8 feet long, and about 160 feet deep, with ten headings, in which steam and air compressors were used. At the east end were five sets of compressors, which forced the drills. Compressed-air pipes extended on the surface from one end to the air pipes extended on the surface from one end to the other of the tunnel, and down the shafts. A water supply was obtained from a marsh at the west end, and the water was pumped to the east end for supplying the boilers and for other purposes. By aid of the electric light work was carried on at highly by a second "shift" of men. The roce recountered was for the most part the ordinary trap rock of the Palisade range, which is extremely hard. Many the specimens were obtained. At the east end this trap rock is underiald by triassle sandatone, while at the west end the sandstone overlays the trap rock, and between shafts No. 1 and No. 2 the rock on the track of the tunnel is intersected by sheets of triassle shale. At this point and at others were soft places in the rock, which required brick and stone arching, and there are in all 4,000 feet of this work in the tunnel. The material, except at the west heading, was all carried by a temporary ribroad and dumped over the brow of the hill. It has been parily used for crib filling on the water front, and partly for ballasting the track.

The company has now hearly completed, at the eastern terminus, an engine house with room for 13 locemotives, three erry slips, four piers, two large freight sheds, milk sheds, and gas house, and purposes to build train-sheds and a large grain elevator. A live Durham, at the western terminus, is a larke freight yard, a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. Feight trains will be transported to this city by floats to the foot of Thirty-seventh-st, and other points. The company's cars are at present running into the Pennsylvanta Depot at Jersey City. The bourractors for the Weehawken tunnel were Smith, Rioley & Coleman. other of the tunnel, and down the shafts. A water supply was obtained from a marsh at the west end, and the

CALIFORNIAN HOLIDAYS.

1X.

FACTS FOR INVALIDS.

(FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.)
NORDHOFF, June 6. Every year the crowd of invalids pushing into Southern California increases, and when the winter settles upon the land the counties of Santa Barbara and San Bernardino seem to be shaken by one general cough. As a rule these ailing visitors do not know where to establish themselves, and have no clear idea what sort of a place they want. Physicians in the East and in Europe cannot give their patients definite instructions on this point, because they know too little about the Pacific coast healthresorts. It is only notorious that the winter climate of Southern California is mild and pleasant, and that it has had a remarkable effect in many cases of pulmonary disease; but there are no data by which the advantages of different sections in this pleasant region can be compared, and the suitability of this or that town in this or that type of disorder can be determined. Tables of temperature, rainfall, relative humidity, etc., are published in many books, botel circulars, and other compendiums of useful information; but most of them are of dubious authority at best, and as they are not made upon any uniform system they cannot be taken as the basis of comparison. Look, for example, at the figures in the best and most popular of modern books on California, namely, Mr. Charles Nordhoff's. He accepts Santa Barbara and San Bernardino as representing the coast and interior respectively-in which he is no doubt quite right. His meteorological tables are not arranged for comparison, and they seem to show only that during the "invalid season" San Bernardino has a somewhat higher temperature, with a lower relative humidity, than Santa Barbara.

But in the first place the averages presented her are deceptive. Those for San Bernardino are the means of three observations taken between 9 a. m. and 5 p. m., that is, in the warm hours of the day ; while the readings at Santa Barbara were recorded at 7 a. m., noon and 9 p. m.; no comparison between them therefore is possible. And in the next place it does not even follow, from this imperfect showing, that San Bernardino, as the hasty reader might suppose, is the drier place of the two. The term 'relative humidity" is misleading. To say that the mean relative humidity of San Bernardino in January is 61, and that of Santa Barbara 71, signifies nothing at all in the absence of statistics of temperature; and yet it is after just such a mutilated formula that the comparison is generally made. When we say that the temperature is 51° and the relative humidity 71, we mean that the air contains 71 per cent of the total amount of moisture which air is capable of containing at a temperature of 51°; but as air will hold more and more vapor the warmer it gets, 71 per cent at 51° really means less moisture than 61 per cent at 58°. Thus it happens that the conclusions deducible from Mr. Nordhoff's tables are quite different from what they appear to be on their face. I have taken the trouble to work out the "absolute humidity" indicated by these figures, with the aid of the well-known Hygrometrical Tables prepared by Mr. James Glaisher. The absolute humidity means the number of grains of vapor in a cubic foot of air, and is of course the true test of the dryness of the atmosphere. But since the figures were not taken by the same observers, nor under the same conditions, nor at the same hours, nor, as far as we know, by the same methods or in the same year, they are of no value in determining the characteristics of the two climates. I give them principally as an illustration of the falla ciousness of the ordinary tables:

SANTA BARBARA. Relative humidity. Grains of water in a cubic ft. of air. 2.9 2.8 3 3.6 3.5 SAN BERNARDINO. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. . 64° 61° 58° 62° 64° . 48 58 61 54 59 Mean temperature..... Relative humidity Grains of water in a cubic ft. of air

From this it would appear that although Santa Barbara has the higher relative humidity, San Bernardino is actually the damper, which is probably not the case for it is situated on a sandy plain. sixty miles from the sea, at an elevation of more than 1,000 feet, while Santa Barbara is directly on the ocean. It only serves to show how little the random figures of guide-books can be trusted for comparison, and how pressing is the peed of accurate and above all systematic observations, under a competent general direction, in order that the best use may be made of the sanitaria of Cali-A few general observations, however, may be

useful in the lack of scientific data. Sufferers from lung trouble need three things: first, climate: second, facilities for living out of doors; third, the means of living fairly well. These are almos equally important, and the best place for an invalid is the place where he can most nearly obtain all three. Equability is not a characteristic of any of the California climates. The changes in winter are sudden and frequent; the daily range of the thermometer is extensive, and prolonged sirocco blasts from the sandy desert follow close upon sharp frosts. Neither have I found at any of the health resorts a really dry climate. Santa Barbara and San Diego are by far the best of the coast towns in this respect: but you can only say of them that they are remarkably dry for the seaside, and that the fogs to which they are subject are by no means as sensibly damp as the fogs of the Atlantic. In point of humidity, they are far superior to Florida for example. The inland towns, so-called, of which San Bernardino may be taken as a type, are not far enough from the sea to escape the fogs, and all of them are more or less exposed to the sait breezes; but of course the moist winds are modified in passing over forty or fifty miles of land. East of the first range of mountains lies a more and country, but it offers no accommodations for invalids. Land-winds, bringing clouds of dust, often filling the air with a fine alkali-haze, are a serious inconvenience both on the coast and inland. Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Gabriel, all the known resorts, are subject to them, and they are very trying to people with weak throats or lungs. I mention these drawbacks at the beginning because it has been too much the custom to speak of the climate of California as absolutely perfect. There is no such thing as a perfect climate. The well and strong who come here for pleasure find almost all the days delightful. The delicate and sensitive, who come here for health, complain a great deal at first of the exaggerations of travellers, but they generally become as enthusiastic as anybody after a few months. The frequent winds are irritating, but

they have an important function in purifying the atmosphere, and to this process of renovation and disturbance, together with the absence of moist exhalations from the soil, we may attribute in great measure the tonic quality of the California air. Then the temperature is favorable to out-of-door life. The figures of average temperature, which ought to be the mean of day and night observations, do not indicate the character of the days. Roughly speaking, the thermoneter at Santa Barbara, during five or six of the warmest nours of a winter day, ranges from 60° to 70°; at San Diego it is about the same; at San Bernardine it is, I suppose, six or seven degrees higher. At either of these places, therefore, an invalid can spend nearly all day to the open air, unless there happen to be unfavorable conditions of wind or fog. The rainy days are so few that it is not necessary to make any account of them. Now most writers on California climate assume that a sick man can stay out-of-doors whenever there is a warm sun. This is not quite true. Riding, driving and walking must be practised in moderation; sitting out of doors is impossible when the wind is strong or when a chill air comes from the sea, and hundreds of people come here every winter who are far too weak to take exercise. For them, and indeed for all invalids, the best place is one so sheltered from the winds that they can recline as long as they please with their books and papers under the trees, and gather strength for active exertion. I found these conditions at Santa Barbara in the first months of the season-Novamber and Decem-

ber-but after the first of January the winds set in and the air was much harsher.

In February I went to the Ojai Valley. This is a sheltered spot in the heart of the hills, where the air is generally calm; there is abundant shade and beautiful scenery; and one could live comfortably in the open air from breakfast till supper. The morning temperature was about the same as that of Santa Barbara: the maximum was eight or ten degrees higher; the nights were much cooler-often cold; the fogs sometimes drifted in from the sen, but generally in the form of high clouds which disappeared early in the day; the humidity, judging only by my sensations, was less. The Ojai Valley, moreover is superior to all the other places I have seen in the inducements for exercise which it sets before the visitor. The walks are cool and easy; the roads are good; the woods are close at hard. People are lazy and unreasonable when they are ill, and they must be tempted out of doors. Probably they can walk, even in Los Angeles and San Diego, but they will not unless they are driven from the bouse. Sierra Madre, the favorite resort near San Gabriel, exercise is practically impossible; and at Riverside, Pasadena, and other irrigation towns, the monotony of the prospect makes walking a rather irksome duty. In Santa Barbara the flower-bordered streets are attractive enough when the wind is still, and although the surrounding country is rather bare object of the desire to be always abroad is almost flowers, the desire to be always abroad is irresistible. Both here and at Santa Barbara there are carriages and saddle-horses to be had.

The question of accommodations deserves more consideration than it generally gets. All physicians agree that ample nourishment is one of the first requisites for the consumptive. "Plain country fare," which is so often recommended, generally means coarse food with coarse and unwholesome cookery. A man may digest it as soon as he is able to lead an active out-door life, but the invalid when he first comes here needs something very different-as plain as you will, but appetizing and well prepared. In the comforts of living Santa Barbara far surpasses all other places in Southern California. It has an admirable hotel and many boarding houses of reputation; furnished houses can be hired for the winter at very moderate rents; and there is no difficulty in getting Chinese servants. At Nordhoff, in the Ojai Vailey, there are two small but good hotels, whose landlords make the most liberal use of their somewhat limited resources. There are no houses to rent. Riverside and the Sierra Madre have pleasant hotels. San Bernardino eaters only for business men. San Diego has no attractions whatever except its climate, and I cannot learn that in climate it has any superiority over Santa Barbara. In the art of eating California is far behind the East, and the markets in this part of the State are but indifferently sup-

The choice of a situation must depend upon the peculiarities of each individual case; probably the invalid himself can decide, from a short trial, whether the seaside, the close valley, or the inland plain will best suit him. If I had to give a word of general advice, I would say, go to Santa Barbara at the beginning of winter, and as soon as the winds send you indoors drive to the Ojai Valley. Between the two places you can certainly pass

a delightful season. As a residence for the year round, Santa Barbara is decidedly preferable to any other town I have seen. The Ojai is intensely bot in summer; already this month the thermometer has been at 1080 and 1100 in the shade on successive days, while Santa Barbara borrows a refreshing coolness from the ocean. The worst season in this latter place is the spring, April and May being the time of the heaviest J. R. G. H. fogs.

THE BARTHOLDI STATUE.

RICHARD M. HUNT'S DESIGN FOR THE PEDESTAL-PROGRESS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Richard M. Hunt, the architect who has been 3,2 3.5 3.3 3.4 3.9 charged with the task of making a design for the pedes-tal of the colossal figure of Liberty Enlightening the World, to be erected on Bedloc's Island, has completed his conception and sent the drawing to the committee. The builder, D. H. King, jr., is preparing a model in wood on the scale of four inches to twelve feet. When this model is completed, probably about the end of this week, it will be considered by the committe and voted upon. The model is in parts and can be taken to pieces to snow the internal arrangement; the broad double flights of stairs that will occupy the interior, the pleasant open spaces between the lower pylon, the gallery in the architrave, and above all the manner in which connec tion will be made between the internal stairway of the this, too, is furnished with methods of ascension, though from the nature of things they will neither be so airy, so well lighted nor so comfortably graded as those of the

Mr. Hunt's design may be roughly divided into three sections each fifty feet high, making a total height of 150 feet above the belt of grass which will surround it. This ribbon of green verdure will be the turf upon the star-shaped ramparts of old Fort Wood, which are not to be demolished. The space between the retaining walls of the fort and the foundation walls of the pedestal will be filled in with the earth taken from the excavation, and this space will be covered with sods, so as to preserve one uniform stretch of turf from the gray granite coping of the ramparts to the base of the pedestal. From this emerald zone the base rises in a slope at an angle of fortyfive degrees. The line of the slope is nearly forty feet long. In each of the four sides of the pedestal in the

the ramparts to the base of the pedestal. From this emerald zone the base rises in a slope at an angle of forty-five degrees. The line of the slope is nearly forty feet long. In each of the four sides of the pedestal in the zentre of this slope is a broad flight of steps leading to the entrances to the stairway. Above the slope there is a stretch of masonry about twenty feet in height, which is divided into panels, and these are to be adorned with carvings in high relief representing the shelds and amorrial bearings of all the States in the Union. An alternate proposition is that the spaces shall the barns of each State in enamel of the said he suspended from the walls. As the state in the said he suspended from the walls. As the next, which is entirely free from decoaction of any kind, and is made intentionally rough and heavy. While in the first section the ashlars are polished, here they are all rough-lews, and at intervals great projections occur of enormous stone masses in the style which was neculiar to the Eruscans, and was reproduced in the lower stories of some of the Floranthy palaces of the Remaissance person. Will prove effective. Above this value of the final section, which is very open; for the story above the huge Eruscan masonry is a former and states are projections. Above the huge Eruscan masonry is a former who massive but symmetrical Tassan fluted columns with plain capitals adorned simply with rosettes. Upon these capitals is a bold and striking architrave, where there is a gallery. Above the architrave is a frieze whose only decoration is a series of bold projections. Above the rices comes another the architrave is a frieze whose only decoration is a series of bold projection. Above the rice comes another the architrave is a frieze whose only decoration is a series of bold projection. Above the rice architects and the plant story of shorter and smaller travers and the same time accomplish the main thought of the architect, which was to magnify the effect of plants, and the same time accomp